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that it might be helpful to you, consult either Dr. Hornbeck or Mr. Hamilton since their recollection of what took place at the interview and of any documentation that might have been prepared with regard to the interview might be more accurate than mine.

I am very sorry not to be able to be more helpful to you, but neither my memory nor my own files throw much light on the matter.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) Sumner Welles

The Honorable
Dean Rusk,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

May 19, 1950

My dear Dr. Hornbeck:

During his recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Senator Tydings, Mr. Earl Browder stated that in October 1942 he called on Mr. Sumner Welles, then Under Secretary of State, to discuss American policy toward China and that Mr. Welles handed to him a written statement of the United States Government's view on this subject. He further stated that, while the Department considered that this statement did not represent any change in United States policy toward China, he did consider it a change in policy and thus an important document. In subsequent debate in the Senate, Senator Knowland referred to this portion of Mr. Browder's testimony and expressed the view that this was an extremely important document since it apparently marked "the turning point of American policy in China". Senator Knowland has now requested the Department to furnish him a copy of the statement, together with any other pertinent documents leading up to the issuance of the statement.

Although a very careful search has been made of the Department's files, we have not yet been able to locate the statement described by Mr. Browder or any record of Mr. Welles' conversation with him. The files do reveal, however, that Mr. Browder released to the press and The Worker published on October 18, 1942 the text of a memorandum said to have been handed to him by Mr. Welles. The files also contain memoranda indicating that the matter of Mr. Browder's call and the statement given him by Mr. Welles were brought to your attention.

It is realized that it is difficult to recall the details of events which transpired many years ago, but it would be greatly appreciated if you would furnish the Department such details regarding this matter as you can reconstruct from memory. In this connection, it might be helpful to you to read the enclosed copy of a dispatch from the New York Herald Tribune of October 16, 1942, which gives Mr. Browder's version of his call on Mr. Welles.

I am reluctant to bother you with this request, but the absence of sufficient information in the Department's files makes it necessary for us to seek your assistance in this regard. Similar inquiries are being made of other officers of the Department then in the Division of Far Eastern Affairs who might have some knowledge of the matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dean Rusk
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Excerpt from The Worker, October 18, 1942.
2. Excerpt from the New York Herald Tribune, October 16, 1942.

The Honorable
Stanley K. Hornbeck,
2139 Wyoming Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.